

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
27 May 2004 (27.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/045036 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H02H 7/085,**
3/38

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2003/004199

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date:
30 September 2003 (30.09.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0226504.9 13 November 2002 (13.11.2002) GB

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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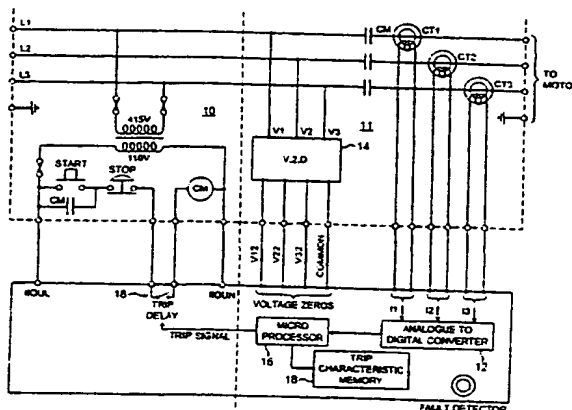
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Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **FAULT DETECTION APPARATUS AND METHOD**



(57) Abstract: There is provided an apparatus for producing a trip signal to activate a circuit breaker in an alternating current power line, said apparatus comprising: a sensing circuit operable to sense values representing: a phase difference between current and voltage in said power line; and current amplitude in said power line; a comparison circuit operable to compare said sensed values of a fault indication signal when a fault condition arises; a fault discriminator operable in response to said fault indication signal to generate a fault-identifying signal discriminating between: a first class of fault in which a mean current value after said fault indication increases relative to a mean current value before said fault indication; and a second class of fault in which a mean current value after said fault indication does not increase relative to a mean current value before said fault indication; and a trip signal generator responsive to said fault-identifying signal and operable to generate said trip signal.

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